

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method of identifying a biometric information sensor comprising the steps of:
providing biometric information to the biometric information sensor;
within the biometric information sensor, digitising at least some of the biometric information to provide digital data within the biometric information sensor;
within the biometric information sensor, encoding a value within the digital data, the encoded value related to the digital data and determined in accordance with a known method unique to biometric information sensors approved by a same source and indicative of the same source; and,
providing the digital data with the encoded value therein from the biometric information sensor to a computer, the digital data absent the encoded value sufficient for determining the encoded value therefrom, wherein a comparison between the encoded value and another value determined according to the known method is suitable for identifying the biometric information sensor as approved by the same source.
2. A method of identifying a biometric information sensor according to claim 1, wherein the encoded value is shared between the biometric information sensor and the computer to identify the biometric information sensor to the computer.
3. A method of identifying a biometric information sensor according to claim 1, comprising the step of:
receiving a signal comprising data at the biometric information sensor from the computer, and
wherein the step of encoding a value is performed in dependence upon the received data.
4. A method of identifying a biometric information sensor according to claim 3, wherein the encoded value is related to the digital data in a deterministic fashion based on the received data.

5. A method of identifying a biometric information sensor according to claim 1, wherein the encoded value is independent of any encoded data for determining data integrity.
6. A method of identifying a biometric information sensor according to claim 1, wherein the encoded value relates the biometric sensor and the digital data to an identifiable biometric information sensor.
7. A method of identifying a biometric information sensor according to claim 1, wherein the digital data comprises a single image data frame
8. A method of identifying a biometric information sensor according to claim 1, wherein the digital data a plurality of different image frames.
9. A method of identifying a biometric information sensor according to claim 1, comprising the steps of:
- receiving the digital data at the computer;
 - decoding the digital data to determine biometric data and an encoded value;
 - using the determined biometric data, determining at least another value related to the biometric data and according to the known method;
 - comparing the at least another value to the encoded value to provide a comparison result; and,
 - when the comparison result is indicative of a match, authorising the data as originating from an approved biometric information sensor.
10. A method of identifying a biometric information sensor according to claim 1, comprising the steps of:
- receiving a unique ID from the biometric information sensor at a processor of smart card interfaced therewith;

compare the received unique ID with data indicative of the unique ID stored in memory of the smart card in order to produce a comparison result;

if the comparison result is indicative of a match, providing a certifying signal certifying the unique ID of the biometric information sensor to the computer.

11. A method of identifying a biometric information sensor according to claim 1, comprising the step of receiving a unique number from a card interfaced with the biometric information sensor.
12. A method of identifying a biometric information sensor according to claim 11, wherein the value is determined using the unique number.
13. A method of identifying a biometric information sensor according to claim 12, wherein the value is encoded using the unique number.
14. A method of identifying a biometric information sensor according to claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the determination of the value is performed using a processor of a smart card interfaced with the biometric information sensor.
15. A method of identifying a biometric information sensor according to claim 14, wherein at least a portion of the encoding of the value is performed using a processor of a smart card interfaced with the biometric information sensor.
16. A method of identifying a biometric information sensor comprising the steps of:
 - providing biometric information to the biometric information sensor;
 - within the biometric information sensor, digitising at least some biometric information to provide digital data;
 - providing data from a computer to the biometric information sensor relating to a method of determining and encoding a value;
 - within the biometric information sensor, determining a value indicative of a unique source of the biometric information sensor according to the method of determining a value;

within the biometric information sensor, encoding the value indicative of the biometric information sensor according to the method of encoding a value;

providing the digital data comprising the encoded value from the biometric information sensor to the computer, the digital data absent the encoded value sufficient for determining the encoded value therefrom, wherein a comparison between the encoded value and another value determined according to the known method is suitable for authenticating the biometric data as originating from an approved source.

17. A method of identifying a biometric information sensor as defined in claim 16, comprising the steps of:

receiving the digital data comprising the encoded value from the biometric input sensor at the computer;

decoding the digital data comprising the encoded value according to a method substantially the reverse of the method of encoding a value, the step of decoding to decode a value;

determining a second value according to the method of determining a value; and, comparing the decoded value and the second value to determine whether the biometric information sensor is an authorised biometric information sensor.

18. A method of identifying a biometric information sensor as defined in claim 16, wherein the data provided from the computer to the biometric information sensor is a synchronisation signal comprising one of a number, a date, and a time.

19. A method of identifying a biometric information sensor as defined in claim 16, wherein the method of determining a value is one of a plurality of predetermined deterministic methods of determining a value each identified by a numeric identifier.

20. A method of identifying a biometric information sensor as defined in claim 16, wherein the method of encoding a value is one of a plurality of predetermined methods of encoding a value each identified by a numeric identifier.

21. A method of identifying a biometric information sensor as defined in claim 16, wherein providing the digital data comprising the encoded value to the computer is performed by providing a signal comprising a frame pulse and the digital data comprising the encoded value disposed within an image data frame.

22. A method of identifying a biometric information sensor as defined in claim 21, wherein encoding of the value is performed by inserting the value at a predetermined location within the image data frame.

23. A method of identifying a biometric information sensor as defined in claim 21, wherein encoding of the value is performed by replacing a portion less than the whole of the digital data with a portion of the value.

24. A method of identifying a biometric information sensor comprising the steps of: receiving biometric information provided to the biometric information sensor; within the biometric information sensor, digitising at least some of the biometric information to provide digital data;

providing a portion of the digital data from the biometric information sensor to a computer;

identifying the biometric information sensor to the computer as an authorised biometric information sensor, the information derived in accordance with a verifiable method wherein verification of the method is indicative of the biometric information sensor being an authorised biometric information sensor; and,

in dependence upon the shared information, identifying the biometric information sensor to the computer as an authorised biometric information sensor.

25. A method of identifying a biometric information sensor according to claim 1, wherein the step of encoding a value is varied at intervals.

26. A method of identifying a biometric information sensor according to claim 16, wherein the data provided from the computer is varied at intervals.

27. A method of identifying a biometric information sensor according to claim 1, wherein the digital data is indicative of an identification of the biometric sensor beyond mere approval by the same source.